

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### **Distribution and Auto Service, Inc.**

#### **Indiana MEP - Purdue Technical Assistance Program**

#### **Improving Processes and Methods to Meet Customer Demands**

##### **Client Profile:**

Distribution and Auto Service, Inc. (DAS), located in Lafayette, Indiana, provides customization services to automotive manufacturers. The company employs 150 people.

##### **Situation:**

Accommodating the ever-changing customization needs of automotive manufacturers is the prime directive of DAS. But when Subaru Indiana Automotive, Inc. was preparing to roll its 2006 B9 Tribeca off the assembly lines, DAS managers at the company's Lafayette vehicle processing center wondered how they could accommodate the new product and associated accessories. DAS turned to the Purdue Technical Assistance Program (TAP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance. "I was looking at overall flows and procedures that were currently going on within the facility," said Rocky Luna, general manager. "I wanted TAP to validate our flows and methods, and hopefully, suggest some new process or procedure that we were not utilizing at the time."

##### **Solution:**

TAP's industrial engineering experts reviewed DAS's metrics and performed time studies. They concluded the company could take on the customization challenges of Subaru-Isuzu's 2006 lineup.

##### **Results:**

- \* Approved existing facility in order to accept the new models without significant changes.
- \* Avoided unnecessary expenditures.

##### **Testimonial:**

"More than anything, TAP gave us peace of mind with our existing layouts and our ability to take on new business."

Rocky Luna, General Manager